

HEALTH
A 17 FEB 1944
C.R. 37



WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

I have the honour to present my report on the health of the County for the year 1942. Like previous war-time reports it is abbreviated and for reasons of National Security certain information included in the statistical tables is omitted and only brief particulars are given of diseases and circumstances affecting the health of the population.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The report of the Ministry of Health for the year 1942 indicates that the year was an exceptional one in which many records were made. The experience of the County is similar. These statistics, whilst only an indication of the general health and well being of the population, are most satisfactory, particularly when it is realised that they cover a period including the third and part of the fourth year of the war.

The birth-rate is 17.4 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population this being an appreciable increase and the highest rate for a number of years. The only disturbing feature is the increased percentage of illegitimate births which comprise 4.3 per cent. of the total. This figure is somewhat better than that for England and Wales as a whole, but it is substantially higher than the figures for 1938 and 1939 which were 3.44 and 3.53 respectively.

The infant mortality rate of 40 per 1,000 births is a record. When it is remembered that the County includes a considerable industrial population in the North I think it may be claimed that the figure is a most encouraging one.

Deaths from puerperal causes were 2.5 per 1,000 of the total births and although this figure is not as good as that for 1941 it is not unsatisfactory. The death rate of 11 per 1,000 of the estimated population is also a satisfactory figure.

The still-birth rate is 35 per 1,000 of the total births.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The incidence of infectious diseases continued to be low and with two notable exceptions, namely tuberculosis and venereal diseases, the position may be considered to be very satisfactory. Details are given in the following Table:—

TABLE 1.

2

TABLE I.

District.	Cerebro Spinal Fever.		Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.		Enteric Fever.		Puerperal Pyrexia.		Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		Ophthalmia Neonatorum.		Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio Encephalitis.		Pneumonia.		Encephalitis Lethargica.		Measles.		Whooping Cough.		Dysentery.				
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths (b)	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths (a)	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths			
Urban																															
Bewdley Borough	-	-	23	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	5	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Bromsgrove -	2	2	80	-	37	1	-	-	13	-	26	7	4	2	5	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	14	-	10	-	-	-	-		
Droitwich Borough	-	-	48	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	10	2	1	1	5	-	-	-	8	-	1	-	48	-	6	-	3	-	-		
Evesham Borough	-	-	20	1	4	-	-	1	7	1	12	4	5	2	2	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	23	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Halesowen Borough	4	-	73	-	32	1	1	-	9	-	30	16	1	2	5	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-		
Kidderminster Borough	1	1	58	-	9	-	2	-	7	1	29	19	3	5	2	-	1	-	39	-	-	-	144	-	58	-	-	-	-		
Malvern -	4	2	70	-	21	-	-	-	5	1	8	11	7	7	1	-	-	8	-	-	2	338	-	9	-	-	-	-	-		
Oldbury Borough	11	-	206	1	53	5	1	-	13	1	56	34	13	3	12	-	1	-	41	-	-	-	39	-	24	-	-	-	-		
Redditch -	3	-	31	-	6	1	-	-	2	1	8	8	2	1	-	-	-	108	-	1	-	583	2	192	-	-	-	-	-		
Stourbridge Borough	1	1	89	-	21	-	-	-	17	-	23	13	6	2	9	-	-	8	-	-	1	17	-	3	-	-	-	-	-		
Stourport-on-Severn	-	1	14	-	2	-	-	-	12	-	4	4	-	1	-	-	-	13	-	2	-	97	-	46	-	1	-	-	-		
Totals -	26	7	712	2	189	8	5	1	86	5	211	120	42	26	37	-	2	-	257	-	1	6	1307	2	423	-	4	-	-	-	
Rural																															
Bromsgrove -	1	1	37	-	7	2	-	-	2	-	15	7	2	2	-	-	3	-	20	-	-	-	105	-	41	-	-	-	-	-	
Droitwich -	2	1	23	-	7	-	1	-	1	-	3	5	2	1	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	-	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Evesham -	-	1	23	-	2	-	-	-	4	-	8	4	4	1	1	-	1	-	10	-	-	-	85	1	41	-	-	-	-	-	
Kidderminster -	-	-	7	-	4	1	1	-	1	-	7	3	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	42	-	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	
Martley -	1	1	30	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4	6	5	2	1	-	-	22	-	-	-	54	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Pershore -	3	-	37	-	17	3	-	-	4	-	9	5	5	6	1	-	1	5	-	-	-	10	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Tenbury -	-	-	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	-	1	-	1	4	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Upton-on-Severn	4	-	38	-	6	-	5	-	-	-	11	3	1	-	-	-	-	10	-	1	-	25	-	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	
Totals -	11	4	200	-	44	6	7	-	16	-	59	36	20	12	5	-	5	-	79	-	-	1	324	1	145	1	1	-	-	-	-
Grand Totals	37	11	912	2	233	14	12	1	102	5	270	156	62	38	42	-	7	-	336	-	1	7	1631	3	568	1	5	-	-	-	-

(a) The deaths refer to all cases of pneumonia, not only those which are notifiable.

(a) The deaths refer to all cases of pneumonia, not only those which are notifiable:

(b) The deaths refer to cases of Puerperal Sepsis.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30292724>

Venereal Diseases. The increase in new cases of syphilis coming to notice during the year was substantial, cases numbering 94 compared with 58, 55, 33, 48 and 48 for the previous 5 years. The figures for known cases of gonorrhea have increased but not to the same extent, but there is a distinct possibility that many cases obtained treatment from private Doctors and would not therefore be included in the clinic figures. The records of clinics do not, of course, include Service cases. The position cannot be considered as satisfactory but it is too early to express an opinion as to whether Defence Regulation 33b will be of material assistance in solving this problem.

Tuberculosis. Dr. Deaner's report shows a very definite improvement if the figures for 1942 are compared with those for 1941. The relatively favourable weather in the Winter of 1942 may in part be responsible for this improvement, and it may be that there will be some falling off in the improved figures in the coming years.

Measles. A sharp epidemic of measles in 1941 spread into 1942, there being 1,631 notified cases with three deaths in 1942.

Cerebro Spinal Fever. The fall in the incidence of Cerebro-Spinal Fever continued, 37 cases with 11 deaths being notified in 1942.

Enteric Group. 12 notifications with 1 death were received during 1942.

Scabies. Scabies continued to be a very prevalent ailment but in the towns great assistance has been rendered by the Local Medical Officers of Health in providing out-patient treatment, mainly at First Aid Post Cleansing Sections. The County Council have provided in-patient treatment at their Smallpox Hospital at Tolladine, near Worcester. The closest co-operation between the School Medical Service and the Local Sanitary Authorities has been maintained and provides a working arrangement that has so far made it unnecessary to resort to the powers conferred under the Scabies Order.

Infectious Jaundice. As in other parts of the country, this disease has cropped up in a number of localities in the County. About a quarter of a century ago the first outbreak in the County was reported by Dr. Mary Williams and prior to this war, Dr. Follows gave a full report upon an outbreak in the town of Redditch. The increase of this disease during war-time has resulted in the Medical Research Council being asked to investigate it, as at the moment very little is really known of its cause or spread. A point of some interest has been noted in connection with war-time nurseries where the incidence of ascertained cases is very much higher in the staff than in the babies attending the nurseries. At one nursery in the North of the County where three members of the staff were affected, a close watch was kept upon all the infants. A child of $2\frac{1}{2}$ years was noted one day to have a very pale motion; there was no rise of temperature and no symptoms complained of although the urine was dark in colour and contained bile. The child was excluded from the nursery and apart from the fact that he was fretful and seemed unwell one evening, he made a complete recovery within a few days. A month later his mother was taken ill complaining of abdominal pains, nausea and constipation. A week later she became jaundiced.

Other cases have been noted of young children who have pale motions and dark urine, the symptoms of jaundice having been absent.

I mention these circumstances because it would appear that a more correct term would be infective hepatitis rather than infective jaundice, jaundice being a symptom which may or may not be present. There seem grounds for suggesting that the younger the child the less likely is the attack to be typical in the sense of jaundice being present. If this assumption is correct it may account for the difficulty experienced in tracing the spread of outbreaks. I think there is some ground for suggesting that the undetected cases, particularly in young children, provides the probable explanation of the unusual spread and the very high incidence in staff as opposed to young children.

CANCER.

Deaths from cancer, all ages, numbered 615. The increase year by year in the figures of deaths from cancer is very constant but the change in the age constitution of the population provides some explanation of these figures. The expectation of life has steadily increased and the number of persons living at an age when cancer is likely to be contracted constitutes a proportion which has grown at as rapid a rate as the figure for cancer.

In conjunction with other Authorities, efforts are being made to provide a complete scheme for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer by the most modern methods as outlined in the Cancer Act, 1939, but owing to shortage of beds at the centre where treatment can be properly provided, it has not been possible so far to make any real progress with either the interim arrangements or the permanent scheme.

STAFF.

The changes in Medical Staff were outlined in my School Report for this year. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the present difficulties in connection with medical, nursing and domestic staffs is a problem which shows little likelihood of being solved in the near future and difficulties are likely to increase.

Owing to shortage of midwives it became necessary during the year to stop the trickle scheme of evacuation of pregnant mothers from Birmingham.

The waiting list for Sanatoria has increased to a previously unknown high figure. No other accommodation can be obtained, although beds that were used previously are no longer available because there is no staff for them.

Some assistance has been made available through the Civil Nursing Reserve, but it seems a great pity in this fourth year of war that greater national effort was not made to convert some of the promising material originally recruited in the C.N.R. into trained nurses.

The shortage of trained staff at the moment is certainly one of the most acute problems which has to be faced.

WAR-TIME DUTIES—ADMINISTRATION.

The system mentioned in previous reports of placing upon senior clerks the responsibility for a particular branch of war-time work, has been continued and is working well.

CIVIL NURSING RESERVE.

Mr. Holder has continued to be responsible for this work. The total number of nurses included on the active list has fallen by approximately 150. This does not really mean any reduction but simply means that the register is a "live" one and consists of persons likely to be of use as opposed to a larger number of persons many of whom could not be relied upon to respond when needed because of other calls upon their services.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The County Ambulance Officer, Mr. G. L. Pitt, has met all calls that have been made upon the Service with cheerfulness and energy. For convoy work, members of the County staff trained in the early days of the war as First Aid Workers, have been formed into a company of stretcher bearers and have been of great assistance. Two other companies of stretcher bearers, one under the leadership of Mr. Walter Todd of Kidderminster and the other under the leadership of Mr. T. Holloway of Evesham, have invariably responded even on short notice, by day or by night, when called upon. Mr. R. W. T. Owen, the County Sanitary Officer, acts as Deputy County Ambulance Officer.

FIRST AID POST SERVICE.

The year 1942 saw few changes although work on the new First Aid Post at Stourbridge and two additional Public Cleansing Centres, one at Redditch and one at Kidderminster, proceeded under difficulty.

The Cleansing Sections at First Aid Posts have proved invaluable for dealing with cases of scabies and I am grateful to the personnel of these Posts for the assistance they have given to the local Health Visitors in the bathing of affected persons.

For reasons of economy of paper I have not felt it necessary to set out again the list of the First Aid Posts and Medical Officers in charge which was given in my report for 1941.

WAR-TIME NURSERIES.

The detailed work in connection with the Residential Nursery at Evesham and the 8 war-time nurseries in the county has been undertaken largely by Dr. Eileen Bulmer whose assistance has been very helpful as the services of Dr. Parry, my Deputy, are no longer available as he has joined the Armed Forces. The following is a list of the Nurseries now established in the County:—

District.	Address.	Medical Officer in charge.
*Bromsgrove	Recreation Road.	Dr. V. Pugh.
Evesham	6 Leicester Gables.	Dr. J. J. Murray.
(Residential)		
Halesowen.	Tenter St. School.	Dr. E. M. Bulmer.
Hill and Cakemore	Long Lane School, Blackheath.	Dr. E. M. Bulmer.
*Malvern.	St. Cuthberts.	Dr. E. M. Bulmer.
Redditch (1)	Church Green.	Dr. A. B. Follows.
„ (2)	Evesham Street.	Dr. A. B. Follows.
Stourbridge.	24, Worcester Street.	Dr. S. Walker.
Summerfield.	Hartlebury.	Dr. E. M. Bulmer.

*Opened in 1943.

ANTE NATAL HOSTELS.

Owing to shortage of midwives it became necessary temporarily to discontinue the use of the ante natal hostels established at Rushwick, near Worcester, and Bewdley, and, therefore, expectant mothers ceased to be evacuated from Birmingham. These Hostels could be brought into use again at fairly short notice if the necessary staff could be obtained.

MIDWIVES ACTS.

During 1942 two hundred and forty-five Midwives gave notice of intention to practise in the County ; this number excludes the Borough of Oldbury which is the Local Supervising Authority for that area.

Since their appointment in 1937, the four domiciliary Midwives in the Borough of Stourbridge (Nurse Hill, Nurse Adams, Nurse Nightingale and Nurse Dunn) have worked as a team under the supervision of Dr. Sara Walker. They have given every satisfaction to their patients and the local doctors. These four whole-time County Council Midwives attended 361 cases in 1942.

In Rural Worcestershire, the midwifery is undertaken by District Nurse Midwives in their respective areas and grants in aid of the finances are made by the County Council. The work has been carried out quietly and efficiently, although shortage of staff has been a difficulty.

Accommodation in Maternity Homes.

Owing to the increasing demand for accommodation, preference in admission is given to abnormal cases and evacuees in billets considered unsuitable for childbirth ; in many cases expectant mothers who from previous experience had realised the benefits of institutional treatment had to be advised to remain at home.

With the object of assisting the latter class, the provision of Home Helps was agreed to by the County Council, but lack of suitable helps has restricted the usefulness of the provision to a comparatively small part of the County. The women who in former years would have been able and willing to assist are now engaged in industry.

Some details of the work undertaken at the County Maternity Hospitals is given below :—

	Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital.	Lickhill Manor Annexe.	Mary Stevens Maternity Home.	Evesham P.A. Instn.	Greenhill Hostel.	Tything Nursing Home Worcester.
NUMBER OF BEDS	17	18	16	27	30	8
ISOLATION BEDS	2	—	2	1	1	—
CASES ADMITTED	420	133	433	210	243	—
AVERAGE STAY	15	14	14	14	14	14
CASES DELIVERED BY MIDWIVES	310	125	225	192	218	—
" " DOCTORS	52	3	186	18	14	—
TOTAL CASES DELIVERED	362	128	411	210	232	84
MEDICAL AID SOUGHT	116	48	130	23	22	—
PUERPERAL PYREXIA CASES	9	2	16	5	—	—
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM CASES	—	—	6	—	—	—
MATERNAL DEATHS	1	—	1	1. Also 2 who died after transfer to Special Hosp	—	—
INFANT DEATHS :—						
(a) STILL-BIRTHS	9	1	18	5	6	—
(b) WITHIN 14 DAYS	10	5	6	1	1	—

Health Visitors, Infant Welfare Centres and Ante Natal Clinics.

There has been a larger number of mothers and babies to be visited especially in the Urban areas. Many of the Health Visitors have difficulty in completing all the work, but every possible effort, including part-time helpers, has been made to meet these circumstances.

There are 16 County Council Centres and 28 Voluntary Centres established in the County together with 16 County Council Ante-Natal Clinics.

The location and average attendances are given below :

County Council Centres.

		Opened.		Average Attendance.
Blackheath	—	Twice weekly	—	64
Bromsgrove	—	Weekly	—	81
Cradley	—	Weekly	—	63
Crabbs Cross and Astwood Bank	—	Fortnightly	—	36
Catshill	—	Weekly	—	32
Droitwich	—	Weekly	—	39
Fairfield	—	Fortnightly	—	10
Halesowen	—	Weekly	—	120
Lye	—	Twice Weekly	—	57
Pershore	—	Fortnightly	—	21
Rubery	—	Weekly	—	30
Redditch	—	Twice weekly	—	39
Stourport-on-Severn	—	Fortnightly	—	41
Worcester	—	Weekly	—	4
Tenbury	—	Fortnightly	—	39
West Heath	—	Fortnightly	—	35

Voluntary Infant Welfare Centres.

		Opened.		Average Attendance.
Areley Kings	—	Fortnightly	—	24
Ashton-Under-Hill	—	Monthly	—	18
Alvechurch	—	Fortnightly	—	23
Broadheath	—	Fortnightly	—	13
Beoley	—	Monthly	—	20
Broadway	—	Fortnightly	—	32
Belbroughton	—	Fortnightly	—	14
Badsey	—	Fortnightly	—	19
Clent	—	Fortnightly	—	14
Chaddesley Corbett	—	Monthly	—	11
Cofton Hackett	—	Fortnightly	—	35
Evesham	—	Weekly	—	40
Fladbury	—	Fortnightly	—	18
Hagley	—	Fortnightly	—	30
Littleton	—	Fortnightly	—	23
Malvern Link	—	Weekly	—	31
„ Poolbrook	—	Weekly	—	25
„ Newtown	—	Weekly	—	26
Norton	—	Monthly	—	30
Ombersley	—	Fortnightly	—	11
Rock	—	Fortnightly	—	10
Stourbridge	—	I.W.C. twice weekly Toddlers' Clinic Fortnightly	—	60
Severn Stoke	—	Fortnightly	—	7
Tardebigge	—	Fortnightly	—	18
Upton-on-Severn	—	Fortnightly	—	10
Wribbenhall	—	Fortnightly	—	41
Wythall	—	Fortnightly	—	46
Welland	—	Fortnightly	—	9

Ante Natal Clinics.

The average attendances and first visits are set out below :—

				Average Attendance.	First Visits.
Bewdley and Wribbenhall	—	—	—	16	118
Bromsgrove	—	—	—	16	152
Blackheath	—	—	—	18	180
Cradley	—	—	—	16	152
Evesham	—	—	—	12	112
Halesowen	—	—	—	16	145
Lye	—	—	—	25	173
Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital	—	—	—	21	291
Mary Stevens Maternity Home	—	—	—	12	156
Newtown, Malvern	—	—	—	12	75
Redditch	—	—	—	13	128
Rubery	—	—	—	7	64
Rushwick	—	—	—	14	115
Stourbridge	—	—	—	20	170
Worcester	—	—	—	12	176
Other Infant Welfare Centres	—	—	—	—	134
West Heath	—	—	—	13	58
Total cases attending for first time				—	2,399

In addition to the 2399 cases supervised at Clinics 4232 first visits were made by Nurses and Midwives to the homes of Expectant Mothers.

Maternal Mortality—whole County.

During 1942 there were 17 maternal deaths, 5 from Puerperal Sepsis and 12 from other maternal causes.

This gives a rate of 2.5 per 1,000 (live and still) births. The figures for the last five years were :—

1937	—	—	—	—	4.77
1938	—	—	—	—	3.44
1939	—	—	—	—	2.41
1940	—	—	—	—	2.47
1941	—	—	—	—	1.63

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

The following Table shows the number of cases in 1942, together with other particulars :—

Cases.			Vision unimpaired.	Vision im-paired.	Total Blind-ness.	Deaths	Re-moval from district
Notified.	Treated						
	At Home.	In Hospital.					
County M. & C.W. area — —	19	9	25	—	—	—	3

Nursing Homes.

There are 26 registered Nursing Homes in the County. Six new Certificates were issued in 1942.

In one area where acute difficulty was experienced, the County Council have agreed to contribute, where circumstances make such course necessary, towards the cost of maintenance of county cases in the Nursing Home.

Abnormal Maternity Cases.

All cases brought to the notice of the County Council have been dealt with either by the provision of Consultants or by admission to Maternity Hospitals. During the year six Consultants were available for complications of pregnancy and labour, (other than Puerperal Pyrexia) arising in the Homes. Altogether 88 cases received treatment in Special and General Hospitals. 16 Consultant Sessions were held at Maternity Homes, when 103 patients were seen. 20 patients were seen by Consultants in Maternity Homes and 8 blood transfusions were given. 89 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The incidence of Venereal Diseases has increased, but the five V.D. centres with which the County Council has arrangements for treatment cover the area reasonably well. I have asked District Medical Officers to advise me of any difficulties they may hear of from practitioners in their area in regard to patients obtaining treatment. No such cases have so far been brought to my notice.

Information as to the incidence of Venereal Diseases in the armed forces is supplied to me at intervals, and I inform the District Medical Officers of Health concerned when the incidence of disease contracted in their area is noted to be high.

The following table gives a summary of the work for County cases at the five centres. The increase in syphilis has already been noted earlier in this report. The number of cases attending not found to be suffering from Venereal Diseases has markedly increased; this circumstance may in part be due to the publicity campaign.

VENEREAL DISEASES SUMMARY 1942.

CENTRE.	New Out-patients.					New In-patients.					Total attendances of all patients.					Salvarsan substitutes	No, ceasing attendance before completion of treatment	No. of specimens examined.
	Syph.	Soft chancre	Gon.	Not V.D.	Total	Syph.	Soft chancre	Gon.	Not V.D.	Total days	Syph.	Soft chancre	Gon.	Not V.D.	Total attendances.			
WORCESTER	28	—	25	295	348	2	—	2	4	239	743	—	346	847	1936	471	26	862
KIDDERMINSTER	30	—	29	106	165	7	—	3	1	281	356	—	187	147	690	290	—	355
BIRMINGHAM	27	—	48	95	170	1	—	—	—	36	1308	—	943	1008	3259	1377	16	1275
DUDLEY	2	—	8	4	14	—	—	—	—	—	80	—	213	35	328	52	1	51
STOURBRIDGE	7	—	25	17	49	—	—	1	—	21	355	—	1757	65	2177	109	46	385
TOTALS- 1942	94	—	135	1517	746	10	—	6	5	571	2842	—	3446	2102	8390	2299	89	2928
1941	58	1	99	304	462	12	—	8	6	596	2477	6	2809	1607	6899	1866	170	2155
1940	55	—	126	241	422	6	—	10	10	478	2283	—	2959	1361	6603	1587	98	2299
1939	33	—	83	237	353	7	—	15	5	731	2456	—	4231	1142	7829	1712	103	2442
1938	48	—	138	187	373	17	—	17	11	1586	2662	—	8606	1084	12352	1704	72	2863
1937	48	1	110	145	304	5	—	19	—	1305	2861	4	7576	771	11219	1896	109	1885
1936	47	—	117	184	348	8	—	10	2	750	3069	—	6998	594	10661	2042	73	2085
1935	59	1	99	175	334	8	—	7	7	801	3080	—	6162	662	9904	1902	140	2010
1934	70	4	94	159	327	6	—	8	—	937	3316	37	6658	695	10706	1311	101	2275
1933	82	—	127	153	362	5	—	9	1	629	2984	—	6844	424	10272	1945	88	2301

HOUSING.

Owing to difficulties in connection with materials and labour, work under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts was to all intents and purposes at a standstill. It is clear that the problem of disrepair and overcrowding will provide one of the most urgent post-war problems. The immediate requirements will be new houses and the replacement of the unfit house will have to be dealt with later. It seems to me imperative that all County Districts should have all their plans in readiness for an active building programme as soon as circumstances permit.

SEWERAGE FACILITIES.

In spite of difficulties the work upon new Sewage Disposal Works at Kidderminster and Redditch, which was commenced before the war, is proceeding. Both these areas were in need of the additional facilities and this need has been emphasized by the war. Both Works should be completed and functioning in 1943.

WATER SUPPLIES.

One of the principal problems that has arisen has been pollution of rivers as the rivers and streams are being increasingly called upon as a source of domestic and dairy supply. A considerable portion of the time of the County Sanitary Officer, Mr. R. W. T. Owen, has had to be devoted to investigation of rivers pollution. The seriousness of some of these pollutions and the need for urgent action have been demonstrated by the effect of the pollution upon fish life. The introduction of industry into Rural areas with the resulting trade wastes often of a most complicated character has presented a number of problems which it has been necessary to try to solve.

MILK.

The total number of licences granted in 1942 under the Milk (Special Designations) regulations were :—

Tuberculin Tested	—	—	33
Accredited	—	—	236
			—
			269
			—

During the year the routine sampling of all designated supplies has been continued together with the sampling of all milk supplied to Schools and several County Council Institutions. In the case of Tuberculin Tested milk 94 per cent. of the samples complied with the standard, whilst in the case of Accredited milk the percentage of satisfactory samples was 89 per cent.

These are very good results especially when it is remembered that the farmers have experienced considerable difficulties both in obtaining skilled labour and equipment, and also remembering the calls made upon the producers in other directions. Mention should be made of the very valuable help given to dairy farmers in the County by the Womens Land Army. Work in dairies seems particularly suitable to the members of the Corps, who I think deserve commendation.

Most of the bad samples are obtained in the summer months when the weather is hot and when seasonal duties on the farm tempt the farmer to relax in the dairy and not sterilize daily. In the case of bad samples this is nearly always the case.

A sufficient and wholesome supply of water is absolutely essential on a dairy farm. Many of our farms have not a proper supply. I am glad to say that the Government have made available grants to subsidise suitable schemes of water supply and many dairy farmers are taking advantage of the offer.

WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

When the County Council as a result of the Blind Persons Act, 1938, took a more active part in the administration of their scheme for the Welfare of the Blind instead of the work being done on their behalf by the Worcestershire Association for the Blind, the immediate tendency was for the number of cases applying for assistance to increase, as a person who might be diffident in seeking aid from a voluntary source does not show the same diffidence when a Local Authority is concerned. The result is that whereas the County Council used to grant £1,000 to the Worcester Association for distribution at their discretion, the amount paid in weekly grants to 170 unemployable blind persons at the end of 1942 was about £8,000. This increase is admittedly not altogether due to the larger number of persons receiving grants but is partly because the weekly amounts are greater than those the Worcestershire Association were necessarily able to make.

During the year a Conference was held with representatives of the Herefordshire, Shropshire and Warwickshire County Councils when uniformity was reached in the scales of assistance granted to unemployable blind persons, new Regulations being adopted by each of the Authorities. Gloucestershire was not represented as they had just adopted fresh Regulations but these are similar to those in operation in the other Counties named. It is obviously desirable that the assistance granted in adjoining Counties should be somewhat similar so as to avoid the possibility of migration to obtain a higher rate of assistance.

The arrangements with the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind in connection with the Home Workers Scheme and workshop employees were continued as in previous years. Some of the blind persons included in these arrangements have, owing to the unusual demand for labour, entered sighted industry where from the information available it would appear their inclusion is justified in the existing emergency.

A Conference was also held with the representatives of the Staffordshire County Council to discuss the general arrangements and certain defects at the Stourbridge Workshops for the Blind so as to enable its usefulness to be extended. The difficulty at these Workshops is that the site is restricted and only about a dozen workers can be accommodated. As a result of the Conference certain structural alterations have been undertaken and these have been paid for by the two Authorities. It was also decided to adopt a minimum wage which should be fixed at a level to allow a good worker to earn more, that the number of hours of work per week should be fixed and the existing practice of additional payment for work on Saturday mornings be discontinued. The adoption of this minimum wage rate means that the County

Council will refund the actual augmentation paid by the Institution to the workers in the same way as is done at the Birmingham Royal Institution Workshops.

It should not be allowed to pass without record that Mrs. M. A. England, after very many years of service as Honorary Secretary of the Stourbridge Institution for the Blind resigned her appointment, being succeeded by Mrs. F. J. Simpkins. Mrs. England's services are still available as she is remaining a co-opted member of the Blind Persons Sub-Committee.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

At the end of the year there were 73 children in the care of 65 registered foster-mothers. 29 new cases were registered during the year and 16 new homes were approved.

I again record my grateful thanks to the Medical, Nursing, Dental, clerical and lay staff for their assistance during the year: also to the many voluntary workers connected with Infant Welfare and other Services.

Your obedient Servant,

WYNDHAM PARKER, M.C.,

C.B.E., M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.) D.P.H. (London).

County Medical Officer.

Public Health Department,

County Buildings,

Worcester.

December, 1943.

ANNUAL REPORT OF CHIEF TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER FOR 1942.

The notifications and deaths for the year 1942 show a reduction in the incidence and mortality of the disease for the County as a whole. This may be attributed to a partial relief from the marked stress and strain to which the community had been subjected previously. On the other hand at the time of writing there is a tendency for the notifications to rise so that the apparent improvement for 1942 must be regarded with caution. The control of tuberculosis depends upon the availability of the provision of hospitalisation on the one hand, and upon adequate housing and nutrition on the other, and until these can be assured, all efforts, however resolute, are seriously handicapped.

TABLE 1.

Year	Notifications			Deaths		
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
1936	330	80	410	200	43	243
1937	317	99	416	172	40	212
1938	293	92	385	171	28	199
1939	237	65	302	151	35	186
1940	281	76	357	172	40	212
1941	291	75	366	168	51	219
1942	270	62	332	156	38	194

It will be noted from Table 2, that although on the whole there has been a fall in most areas, in Oldbury particularly there has been a definite rise both in incidence and mortality. Oldbury is a borough which co-operates in full measure in dealing with the tuberculosis problem so that the position will be carefully watched.

TABLE II.
Notifications of Tuberculosis during 1942 showing Age Periods.

Age periods :	under 1 yr.	1-4 (4 yrs.)	5-9 (5 yrs.)	10-14 (5 yrs.)	15-19 (5 yrs.)	20-24 (5 yrs.)	25-34 (10 yrs.)	35-44 (10 yrs.)	45-54 (10 yrs.)	55-64 (10 yrs.)	65 and up- wards	Total
Pulmonary—												
Males -	-	1	2	5	17	20	41	33	25	13	4	161
Females -	-	1	2	2	24	25	27	15	5	7	1	109
Non-Pulmonary—												
Males -	-	8	8	2	3	4	5	2	-	1	-	33
Females -	-	4	7	5	1	4	5	2	-	1	-	29
Total -	-	14	19	14	45	53	78	52	30	22	5	332

TABLE III.

District.	Notif'n Rate per 1000	Death Rate per 1000	Total cases notified	Total Deaths
Bewdley Borough - - -	1.11	0.44	5	2
Bromsgrove Urban - - -	1.12	0.33	30	9
Droitwich Borough - - -	2.03	0.55	11	3
Evesham Borough - - -	1.32	0.47	17	6
Halesowen Borough - - -	0.83	0.48	31	18
Kidderminster Borough - - -	0.89	0.66	32	24
Malvern Urban - - -	0.71	0.86	15	18
Oldbury Borough - - -	1.39	0.74	69	37
Redditch Urban - - -	0.39	0.35	10	9
Stourbridge Borough - - -	0.83	0.43	29	15
Stourport-on-Severn Urban - - -	0.45	0.57	4	5
Bromsgrove Rural - - -	0.66	0.35	17	9
Droitwich Rural - - -	0.38	0.46	5	6
Evesham Rural - - -	0.75	0.31	12	5
Kidderminster Rural - - -	0.71	0.31	7	3
Martley Rural - - -	0.76	0.68	9	8
Pershore Rural - - -	0.92	0.72	14	11
Tenbury Rural - - -	0.49	0.49	3	3
Upton-on-Severn Rural - - -	0.91	0.23	12	3
	0.89	0.52	332	194

Table 3 gives the notifications, deaths and rates of all cases of tuberculosis shewn in Sanitary Areas.

In these days rural and urban communities are coming more and more into intimate contact so that infection in rural areas is bound to rise. This may not be reflected in the statistics so far but the experience with one factory may be quoted as an example. This firm brought into a rural area a nucleus of skilled workers of whom at least two were known cases of open tuberculosis. Since then a number of workers were absorbed from the surrounding rural community into the industry and of these two have developed acute tuberculosis and three have had pleural effusions.

Mass Radiography:—The present position is that apparatus for mass miniature radiography is being made available to local authorities. This County will be dependent upon Birmingham as a centre. It is understood that Birmingham will receive its set early in 1944. One Industrial concern in Oldbury has already expressed a readiness to co-operate and the rural firm mentioned above is also keen. It is hoped that with the experience obtained it will be possible to determine the measures necessary to extend the facilities for treatment at present provided by the County. So far, civilian surveys with unselected personnel indicate that one in two hundred would require institutional treatment. By this method of detecting tuberculosis 0.6% of all cases investigated are infectious. As a matter of interest it should be pointed out that the present position in the County gives a figure of 1 per 340 of population.

Maintenance Allowances:—It should be stated that the scheme for maintenance allowances was put into operation on July 1st 1943. A full report will be given later. The scheme is of great assistance, but its scope is limited, however, and it is earnestly hoped that its provisions will soon be extended to cover all cases of tuberculosis.

Dispensary Work:—Table IV. The dispensary work is increasing, the number of new cases in 1942 being 1210 as compared with 1088 in 1941. Quite a number of cases are sent by the Civilian Board under the National Service Act. The heavy attendances reflect the desired co-operation of the general practitioners and the willingness for periodic review on the part of the patients. In view of the abnormal waiting list of sanatorium cases artificial pneumothorax treatment is commenced either at home or at the dispensaries in selected cases.

All contacts prepared to co-operate are investigated and requested to attend for periodic examination. As far as possible all are X-rayed. The mantoux test is used in preference to the patch test, which although easy to perform, is in our experience unreliable. Periodic review is of great importance as investigation has shown that in contact groups, after those suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis have been excluded, the remainder develop the disease at a rate which seems to lie between 2-3% per annum.

TABLE IV.

RETURN SHOWING THE WORK OF DISPENSARIES DURING THE YEAR 1942.

Diagnosis.	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Total.			
	Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
A.—NEW CASES examined during the year (excluding contacts) :										
(a) Definitely tuberculous	142	86	7	2	12	11	15	12	154	97
(b) Doubtfully tuberculous									174	118
(c) Non-tuberculous									336	184
										287
										336
										587
										1210
B.—CONTACTS examined during the year :—										
(a) Definitely tuberculous	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	2
(b) Doubtfully tuberculous									6	13
(c) Non-tuberculous									26	97
										6
										47
										226
										279
C.—CASES written off the Dispensary Register as										
(a) Recovered	15	21	1	1	5	9	3	9	20	30
(b) Diagnosis not confirmed or non-tuberculous (including cancellation of cases notified in error)										64
									434	362
									104	109
										1009
D.—NUMBER OF PERSONS on Dispensary Register on December 31st :—										
(a) Definitely tuberculous	560	476	39	39	75	78	104	91	635	554
(b) Diagnosis not completed									250	191
									143	130
									65	77
										1462
										583
										2045

The Waiting List :—This is a cause of great anxiety. It is due to a number of factors :—the pre-war lack of beds ; the increased incidence of the disease ; the desire to prolong the stay of patients until maximum benefit has been attained, since relapse means a futile waste of time and money and progressive disease ; the necessity to retain the advanced case, which, although it appears to block beds, does prevent the occurrence of secondary cases. The present shortage of nursing and domestic staff is critical so that even if beds were made available there is no staff to deal with them. New cases keep on arising which, because of hopeless environmental conditions, demand immediate admission, thus prolonging the delay in admitting other and usually more hopeful cases. However, everything is done that can be done for the patient while he is waiting.

Institutional Treatment :—This year was the first in which the County has been able to avail itself fully of the advantages of Thoracic surgery. It must be pointed out that in any individual case operation is only a means to an end and that rest remains the basic treatment.

Artificial Pneumothorax treatment was attempted in 48 patients. Induction failed in 5 cases because of adherent pleura. 15 were abandoned because of ineffective or contra-selective collapse, but of these 2 went on to cavity suction drainage (Monaldi) and 3 were recommended for thoracoplasty.

Thoracoscopy was done on 25 occasions.

10 phrenic operations were performed.

Cavity suction-drainage was done in 2 cases, and lipiodol investigations were done on 3 patients, one of whom had lobectomy done eventually. The thoracoscopies (with adhesion-cautery) were done on patients with ineffective artificial pneumothorax, and the phrenics were performed either as ancillary to the pneumothorax or where induction was impossible. 5 patients had both phrenic and adhesion-cautery. Of the 30 patients operated upon under these conditions 16 definitely became quiescent, 6 were well but still sputum positive, and 6 were recommended for further treatment. One case died but the outlook was bad in any case.

We are grateful to Mr. Holmes Sellors, the Consulting Thoracic Surgeon, for his invaluable opinion and advice in regard to our cases, and it is gratifying to know that his extensive experience and skill are at the service of the County.

X-ray Work :—The X-ray facilities have been extended to the full. We are very grateful for the co-operation and good will of the radiological staffs of the various hospitals upon whom we are dependent for such facilities. The increase in the X-ray work has been marked : for in 1938 there were 751 films taken and in 1942 there were 1278 (these exclude National Service cases).

I should like to thank Dr. Cronin and Dr. Clover and the staff for their willing help during the year, and Dr. Wyndham Parker for his advice and guidance in these most difficult times for the Tuberculosis Work.

S. DEANER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Chief Tuberculosis Officer.

November, 1943.